

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating message data between a plurality of subsystems which are distributed across a data communications network, the method comprising:
  - coupling the distributed subsystems together through a coupling means with a shared memory;
  - providing at least one shared queue in the shared memory, the shared queue being shared for getting and putting message data among all of the distributed subsystems;
  - providing access to the shared queue from each of the coupled subsystems; and
  - communicating the message data between all of the distributed subsystems by means of the shared queue.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

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4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one application program is connected to a subsystem, and wherein the subsystem manages the message data for the at least one application program.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling means is a coupling facility with data structures for the at least one shared queue and a database.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the database stores queue definitions for the at least one shared queue.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subsystem has a long running process to check the at least one shared queue for message data for that subsystem.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subsystems also have local non-shared queues.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein message data is sent from a first subsystem to a second subsystem by the first subsystem putting a message on a shared queue and the second subsystem getting the message from the shared queue.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating message data, comprising:
- a plurality of subsystems distributed across a data communications network;
  - a coupling means with a shared memory the shared memory having at least one shared queue;
  - means associated with each subsystem for accessing the at least one shared queue, the shared queue being shared for getting and putting message data among all of the distributed subsystems; and wherein
  - the message data is communicated between all of the distributed subsystems by means of the shared queue.
12. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers.
13. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.
14. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one application program is connected to a subsystem, and wherein the subsystem manages the message data for the at least one application program.
15. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coupling means is a coupling facility with data structures for the at least one shared queue and a database.

16. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the database stores the queue definitions for the at least one shared queue.

17. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

18. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein each subsystem has a long running process to check the at least one shared queue for message data for that subsystem.

19. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the subsystems also have local non-shared queues.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising computer readable program code for performing the steps of:

providing at least one shared queue in a shared memory, the shared queue being shared for getting and putting data among all of a plurality of subsystems;

providing access to the shared queue from each of the plurality of subsystems coupled to the shared memory wherein said subsystems are distributed across a data communications network; and

communicating the data between all of the distributed subsystems by means of the shared queue.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating message data within a distributed data communications network, the apparatus including a resource manager for receiving messages from input message queues and forwarding the messages to destination message queues, the resource manager including:

a coupling facility manager component providing connection services for the resource manager to connect to a coupling facility list structure to perform operations on list structure entries including connect;

a message retrieval agent for accessing at least one shared queue in shared memory associated with the coupling facility, the shared queue being shared for getting and putting messages among all of members of the distributed data communications network;

wherein the message retrieval agent enables the resource manager of each member of the distributed data communications network to access the messages directly from the shared queue of a connected coupling facility.

22. (New) A system for communicating message data between applications programs on a plurality of subsystems of a computer network, the system comprising:

a queue sharing group;

at least one shared queue;

at least one queue manager, having a channel initiator, local page sets and log data sets,

wherein an application program can connect to any of the at least one queue manager;

a shared data repository that stores queue definitions for the at least one shared queue, the shared data repository being accessible from all queue managers.

a data repository manager component of each queue manager which controls connect, disconnect, read, write, delete and update requests to the shared data repository;

a coupling facility having a microprocessor unit and data structures for the at least one shared queue, the coupling facility being accessible from all queue managers, wherein the coupling facility can hold multiple coupling facility data structures for the same queue sharing group and can couple data structures for more than one queue sharing group;

a coupling facility manager component of each queue manager which provides connection services for connecting to the coupling facility data structures to perform read, write, delete, connect, disconnect, update and move operations on the data structures; and

a shared transmission queue of the at least one shared queue, wherein the shared transmission queue is checked by a long running process of each subsystem for message data for the subsystem;

wherein the plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers,

wherein the plurality of subsystems are part of a sysplex and all queue managers in the queue sharing group are in the same sysplex,

wherein the at least one queue manager belongs to only one queue sharing group,

wherein message data is sent from a first subsystem to a second subsystem by putting a message on the shared transmission queue and the second subsystem getting the message from the shared transmission queue,

wherein the queue managers are able to access the same object definitions and message data concurrently,

wherein the message data can be accessed by any queue manager in the same sysplex,

wherein a queue manager is adapted to use a non-shared local queue, to store definitions of private objects, and to distinguish between the private objects and shared objects,

wherein the queue sharing group has a single generic address that can be used to connect to any queue manager within the queue sharing group, and

wherein channels and channel agents are not required to be active between queue managers in the queue sharing group.

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